

The stick is much bigger than the carrot

Designation of NHAs corrupts local planning by adding federal dollars, federal oversight, and federal mandates to the mix.

Although designation as a National Heritage Area does not involve federal regulation of private property, according to the National Park Service (2005a), it gives local preservation interests the backing of the federal government.

If the local management group does not meet the standards of the federally approved management plan, funding will diminish or cease. This creates an incentive to bend to the wishes of the National Park Service.

In 2003 congressional testimony, de Teel Patterson Tiller, acting associate director for cultural resources for the National Park Service, admitted that to date, self sufficiency has yet to be achieved with any NHAs, and the first four NHAs established have sought and received Congressional extensions of their funding. (Tiller 2003).

The real beneficiaries of a National Heritage Area program are conservation groups, preservation societies, land trusts, and the National Park Service - essentially, organizations that are in constant pursuit of federal dollars, land acquisition, and restrictions to development.

As a case in point, on January 23, 2009 at a landowner meeting at Jack's Steakhouse with Tracy Potter & David Borlaug, Tracy Potter said, "This NHA will create a bureaucracy that will outlive me."

If you are looking for a reference point on the longevity, funding and expansion of National Heritage Areas, look no further than the Blackstone River Valley Heritage Corridor.

Experience shows that the rights of residential and commercial property owners are often undermined in National Heritage Areas. In the name of preserving the historic "landscape" of the area in question, federal officials often develop management plans that are little more than zoning imposed by Washington bureaucrats.

National Park Service webpage on National Heritage Areas at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/>

Information on Northern Plains National Heritage Area from NDFB website <http://www.ndfb.org/policy/default.asp?ID=464>

This information will be updated on an on-going basis.



Morton County Farm Bureau
Burleigh County Farm Bureau
Mercer County Farm Bureau
Oliver County Farm Bureau
McLean County Farm Bureau